IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently amended) A process for reducing ~~the~~ a concentration of MEHQ in acrylic acid which has been from 75% to 105% neutralized, by a continuous adsorption on activated carbon.

2. (Currently amended) ~~A~~ The process ~~as defined in~~ of claim 1, wherein the acrylic acid has been from 90% to 103% neutralized.

3. (Currently amended) ~~A~~ The process ~~as claimed in either~~ of ~~claims~~ claim 1 ~~or 2,~~ wherein the acrylic acid has been from 95% to 101% neutralized.

4. (Currently amended) ~~A~~ The process ~~as claimed in any~~ of ~~claims~~ claim 1 ~~to 3,~~ wherein the acrylic acid has been from 98% to 100% neutralized.

5. (Currently amended) ~~A~~ The process ~~as claimed in any~~ of ~~claims~~ claim 1 ~~to 4,~~ wherein the continuous adsorption is carried out on a fixed bed.

6. (Currently amended) ~~A~~ The process ~~as claimed in any~~ of ~~claims~~ claim 1 ~~to 5,~~ wherein the continuous adsorption is carried out in one or more columns ~~which have been~~ filled with activated carbon.

7. (Currently amended) ~~A~~ The process ~~as claimed in any~~ of ~~claims~~ claim 1 ~~to 6,~~ which is carried out at ~~temperatures~~ a temperature between 0°C and 30°C, ~~in particular between 3°C and 20°C~~.

8. (Currently amended) ~~A~~ The process ~~as claimed in any~~ of ~~claims~~ claim 1 ~~to 7,~~ wherein 90% by weight of the activated carbon has a particle size between 350 µm and 1800 µm.

9. (Currently amended) ~~A~~ The process ~~as claimed in any~~ of ~~claims~~ claim 1 ~~to 8,~~ wherein the activated carbon has been acid-treated.

10. (Currently amended) ~~A~~ The process ~~as claimed in any~~ of ~~claims~~ claim 1 ~~to 8,~~ wherein the activated carbon has a specific surface area of from 900 to 1100 m^2/g.

11. (Currently amended) ~~A~~ The process ~~as claimed in any~~ of ~~claims~~ claim 1 ~~to 10,~~ wherein the activated carbon has a density between 400 g/l and 500 g/l.

12. (Currently amended) ~~A~~ The process ~~as claimed in any~~ of ~~claims~~ claim 1 ~~to 11,~~ wherein the concentration of MEHQ in the acrylic acid is reduced by at least 50%~~, preferably at least 75%, in particular at least 90%~~.

13. (Currently amended) A process for preparing ~~superabsorbents, including the~~ a superabsorbent comprising a step of optionally combining 75% to 105% neutralized acrylic acid whose MEHQ content has been reduced by continuous adsorption on activated carbon ~~according to any of the preceding claims~~ with a less neutralized~~, in particular nonneutralized,~~ acrylic acid~~,~~ subsequently polymerizing the acrylic acid, and optionally surface postcrosslinking the resulting superabsorbent.

14. (Cancelled)

15. (New) The process of claim 1 which is carried out at a temperature between 3°C and 20°C.

16. (New) The process of claim 1 wherein the concentration of MEHQ in the acrylic acid is reduced by at least 75%.

17. (New) The process of claim 1 wherein the concentration of MEHQ in the acrylic acid is reduced by at least 90%.

18. (New) The process of claim 13 wherein the less neutralized acrylic acid is unneutralized acrylic acid.

19. (New) A hygiene article comprising a superabsorbent prepared according to the process of claim 13.